

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 29, 2003.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL: Jerry Trumps (Chair - District 6), Robert Castille (Vice Chair - District 2), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Chris Williams (District 3), Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (District 4), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

ABSENT: None

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk), Monica Fontenot (Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Walter S. Comeaux, Jr. (City-Parish President), Glenn Weber (CAO), Steve Dupuis (City-Parish Attorney), Chief Ronald Boudreaux (Police Department), Chief Robert Benoit (Fire Department), Terry Huval (Director of Utilities), Benny Soulier (Director of Administrative Services), John Raines (Director of Public Works), Tony Tramel (Director of Traffic & Transportation), Robert Benoit (Director of Planning, Zoning & Codes)

COMMENCEMENT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001)AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Jerry Trumps called the Regular Council Meeting of April 29, 2003 to order.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(005)AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Marc Mouton was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Trumps announced Items 6d and 6h were pulled.

EXECUTIVE/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(058)AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: President's Report.
No report was given.

At this time, Councilman Williams commended everyone involved with the Festival International activities. Since the construction of parks in the downtown area has been completed, it provided for a wonderful atmosphere and location to host individuals from all over the world during festival time. Trumps and Castille concurred.

ORDINANCE FOR FINAL ADOPTION

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(108)AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: O-075-2003 An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council amending the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and the official map of the City of Lafayette, providing for the annexation of additional land into the corporate limits of the City of Lafayette, Louisiana, Case No. Z2003-001(A) Teurlings Mouton Annexation, located generally south of West Butcher Switch Road and west of Carencro High School, which is located within Council District No. 2 for voting purposes, and assigning a zoning classification of R-1-A (Single-Family Residential). A motion to approve by Castille, seconded by Stevenson, and the vote was as follows: YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None
Motion was approved.

Eleanor Lilly explained the subject annexation involves only one property, therefore, the Zoning staff and commission are recommending the annexation. In 1987 when the area was annexed into the city limits of Lafayette, the property owner chose not to participate. At the present time, the property owner is requesting to be annexed in order that they may receive city utility rates.

Castille requested support of the Council.

APPEAL

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(010)AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: An appeal of the Planning Commission's requirement to dedicate and construct a street from Vincent Road to the Vintage Vineyards Subdivision development.

This item was withdrawn by request of the developer's attorneys.

Councilman Mouton commented the appeal has been withdrawn and should the owners wish to proceed, they must go through the appeal process once again. After speaking with many residents, he felt that the common thought received from the residents was that they are not opposed to the development but are concerned about the integrity of the neighborhood. He reiterated that the Council and Administration would research ways for an amicable solution so that there will be a minimum amount of traffic impact on the existing neighborhoods.

REPORTS AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(159)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6a: Discuss Louisiana Delta railroad crossing at Pierce Street

Councilman Williams explained Louisiana Delta Railroad leases this section of track. Upon the lease agreement, the company made a commitment to address the needs of the repair once they arrived in the area. He recently received a communication stating they will not repair the track because they only have one client that crosses the track who is only in the area 15-20 times a year. He expressed his concerns regarding the vehicular damages that are occurring due to the condition of the crossing. Williams continued by saying he will meet on site with representatives of Louisiana Delta Railroad to determine a solution. LCG has agreed to pay for the supplies needed and is requesting permission to work within the tracks.

Upon questioning by Castille, Raines responded if approval is given for LCG to conduct the repair work, the railroad company would determine the pace and stated the railroad company prefers to do the work but he has been unsuccessful in getting the repairs started.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(221)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6b: Update on Housing Abatement Program

Williams complimented all those involved in the consistent effort in the "clean up" of neighborhoods. The "clean up" consists of the removal or repair of dilapidated homes, drug activity, prostitution, trash and all other criminal activities. Floyd Johnson, Assistant District Attorney, thanked the Council for their support. The program is successful because of the participation of the citizens and the participating departments. The purpose of the program is to let anyone who is involved in criminal activity know that the program is a strong and permanent plan. It has been developed as a zero-tolerance program and is designed to "clean up" one area then move on to an adjacent area that has suspected criminal activity. He confirmed there would be convictions that could be placed on individuals who are charged with a crime in the area. In these areas, there are drug houses, prostitution houses, crack houses and dilapidated homes. He encouraged anyone who witnesses any criminal activity for areas within the city and the unincorporated areas to please contact the necessary authorities.

Broussard stated he has been experiencing positive feedback about the program and felt there will eventually be an improvement in the quality of life. Upon questioning by Benjamin, Johnson explained the reported problem is assessed, the property owner is contacted and if no response, it moves into the prosecution stage.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(517)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6c: Update on Ambassador Caffery North

Tony Tramel, Director of Traffic and Transportation, explained that in the mid-1990's the DOTD contracted with a local firm to research a line and grade study. There were many alternatives, which were examined and looked at. Since the adoption of the I-49 Corridor Preservation and Management Plan, LCG requested DOTD to assist in the completion of the environmental assessment by transferring \$200,000-\$300,000 from Ambassador Caffery South to Ambassador Caffery North. After 3 attempts for approval, LCG currently will be moving forward with the DOTD and the Council with recommendations.

Carencro officials have requested that the roadway not traverse through the downtown area. Tramel confirmed there is no money to fund this project even though it is identified on the constrained transportation plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6d: Discuss businesses in downtown Lafayette
This item was pulled.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(620)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6e: Discuss the repairs of Peck Blvd. Bridge

Councilman Mouton stated the bridge has been closed due to water damage for a considerable amount of time and the residents have to use a detour route. Raines responded a water line burst and damaged the bridge pilings underneath. Since that time, the bridge was closed by LCG due to safety concerns brought by the weakening of the bridge, which made it dangerous for vehicular traffic. He continued by saying his department is in the process of receiving bids and once the contract has been awarded, the project should be complete by mid-June. All residents affected by the closure will receive a notice of the duration of the project.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(005)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6f: Feasibility of abandonment of property on Pinhook between Carmel & Clifford

Benjamin explained the subject property was purchased for rights-of-way for the construction of Pinhook Road. Since the construction has been completed, he would like to request that the property be abandoned and returned to the rightful owners. Some of the residents have taken responsibility in the upkeep of certain portions of the property but there are other portions that are not and are becoming an eyesore. He is concerned with debris, foot traffic and maintenance of the property. City-Parish Attorney Dupuis agreed to meet with Raines and stated in terms of abandonment, it depends if it was part of a right-of-way. If not, it may be declared as surplus property. Raines responded it was an acquisition of a family track that had remnants on each side in which they decided to keep but later decided not to, therefore, it was donated to LCG.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(055)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6g: Update on Camellia Blvd. Soundwall

Raines responded that a consultant contract has been awarded. The first step in the process would be to receive preliminary plans to begin the review and circulation for acceptability, design, etc. and is anticipating the first set of preliminary plans to be complete in July. Because the project has many obstructions and conflicts, Public Works will not be able to identify these until the review of the preliminary plans in order to move forward. Upon questioning by Stevenson, Raines confirmed St. Barnabas Church has requested that no soundwall be constructed along the front of their property.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6h: Discuss Butcher Switch Erosion problem
This item was pulled.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(155)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6i: Status of Shenandoah drainage project

Raines explained that the Federal government has approved the application from FEMA for drainage funding and is currently waiting on all necessary signatures from the state level. This grant will apply an additional \$400,000 in funds for the project. There are two pipe conflicts that exist for the drainage and are being addressed by the pipe companies. The project should be ready for bid in June.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(186)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6j: Status of right-of-way on Caledonia drainage project

Public Works has been meeting with the residents to accommodate and correct the problem. His department is in the process of acquiring rights-of-way for the subject project but out of the 17 property owners, 9 have not signed. Should these residents not agree with the rights-of-way acquisition, then Public Works will proceed through the expropriation process.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(265)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6k: Status of Shadow Wood Subdivision drainage

Raines responded that the excavation process has begun and the overlay of the street has been delayed until the excavation is completed for the outfall.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(294)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6l: Status of Brookhollow gas pipeline

Raines explained there was a delay in evaluating the impact of the depth of the cleaning on the pipes themselves and ensure there were no conflicts. The project should be completed within 6 weeks.

The following persons were recognized:

Tim Sonnier expressed concerns regarding the status of the project and thanked the Administration for the efforts to complete the project.

Chris Kiefner reiterated Mr. Sonnier's comments and is anxious to see the project completed.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(353)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6m: Update on Darby Coulee

Raines confirmed Mr. Maxie Broussard, contract appraiser for the project, will meet with all those involved by May and will report back to the Council with a status.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(386)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6n: Update on Savoy Road drainage concerns

Raines explained Public Works has maintained the ditches but the outfall is remaining stagnant. He confirmed the profile is almost complete to determine where the problem is. There may be a possibility of additional rights-of-way that are needed for road widening which would be the optimum solution. If the determination is that the road would require widening and moving back the ditches, then more work would be involved.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(429)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6o: Status of Langlinais Road drainage

Raines explained the location of the road is at the Lafayette/Iberia Parish border. The property owners in which additional outfall would be required, also own property going into Iberia Parish. These residents have indicated they are concerned if the coulee was cleaned along Lafayette Parish up to the Iberia Parish line, there would be serious flooding problems. The residents will not sign until Iberia Parish agrees to clean their portion of the coulee. His department will request a meeting with the officials of Iberia Parish requesting assistance in their area, which would help alleviate the drainage problems.

The following person was recognized:

Stacy Trahan expressed her concerns with stagnant water and the collection of water in ditches and the property of the residents.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(632)AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Comments from the public on other matters.

The following persons were recognized:

Mary Ann Ficaro questioned the status on the future contract dealing with paratransit services. She received correspondence from Tony Tramel stating that the purchasing division would be involved in the solicitation for bids.

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(035)

Patrick Brasseaux expressed his concerns regarding the enforcement of the noise ordinance. Chair Trumps responded there will be a briefing held in reference to same on May 13.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Trumps declared the meeting adjourned.

Norma A. Dugas
Clerk of the Council